

### Question

Future wars will be fought on water. This statement expertly sums up the dilemma of South Asia where three powers are competing for the same water resources. How can this acute impasse on water be overcome and what kind of water framework is the need of the times?

### Answer.

#### 1. Introduction

The statement "future wars will be fought on water" aptly encapsulates the pressing dilemma faced in South Asia, where three regional powers contend for access to and control over shared water resources. This predicament underscores the critical importance of effectively managing water in a region prone to geopolitical tensions. As competition for water resources intensifies, finding solutions to this acute impasse becomes imperative to prevent conflicts and ensure sustainable development. In this context, exploring strategies to overcome the challenges of water scarcity and fostering cooperation among stakeholders emerge as crucial

crucial steps toward establishing a robust water management framework tailored to the needs of the region.

## 2. Current Challenges in South Asia's Water Scenario

### 2.1 Shared Water Basins

#### 2.1.1 Indus River System

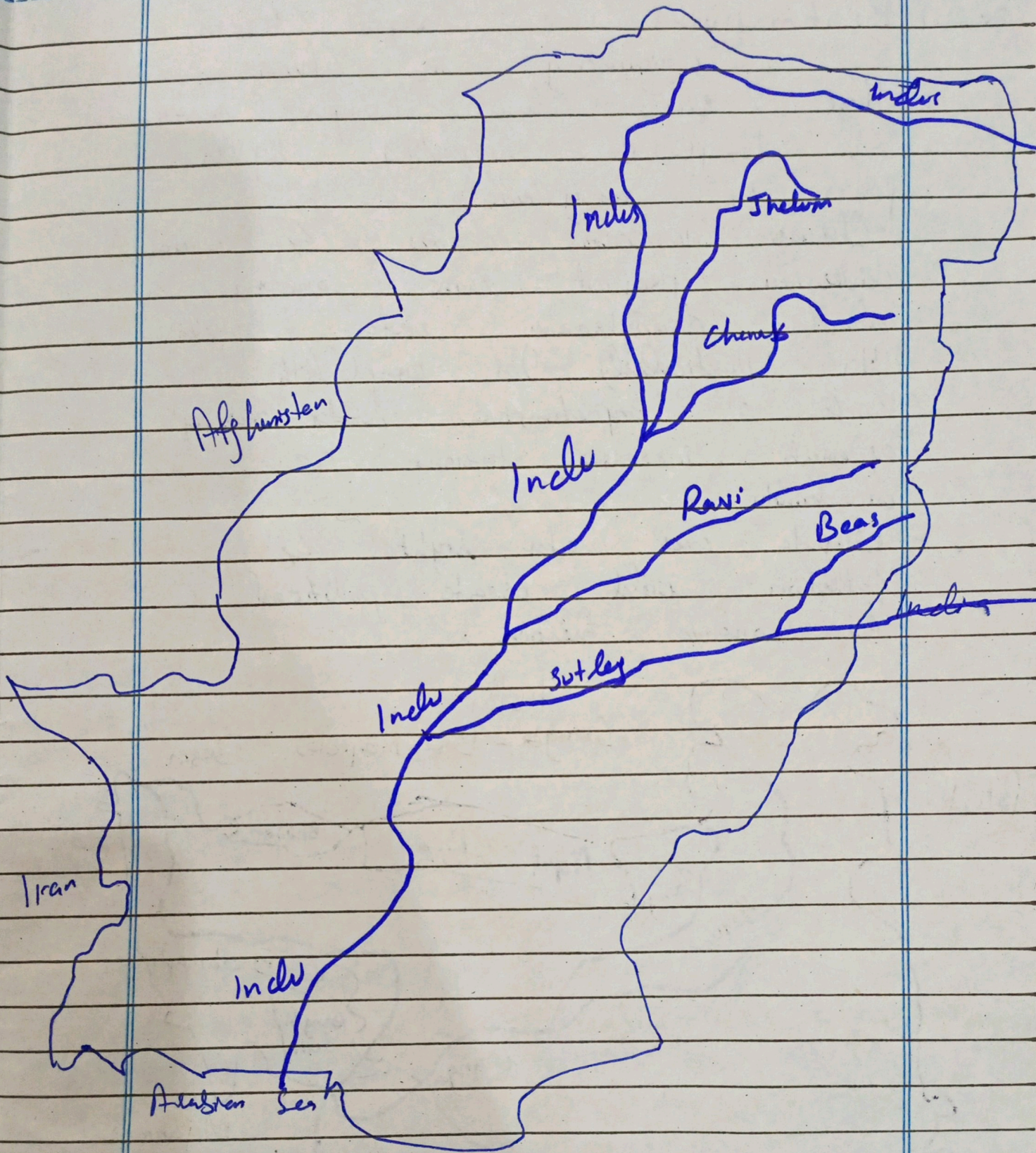
The Indus Water System sustains the lives of over 200 million people in Pakistan, China, India & Afghanistan. Comprising five major rivers i.e.

1. Indus
2. Jhelum
3. Chenab
4. Ravi
5. Beas.

It provides water for irrigation, drinking & industrial use.

#### 2.1.1.1 Indus Water Treaty (1960):

A landmark agreement allocating Indus River waters b/w India & Pakistan based on geographical location. Despite tensions, it has been relatively successful in preventing conflicts over water resources.



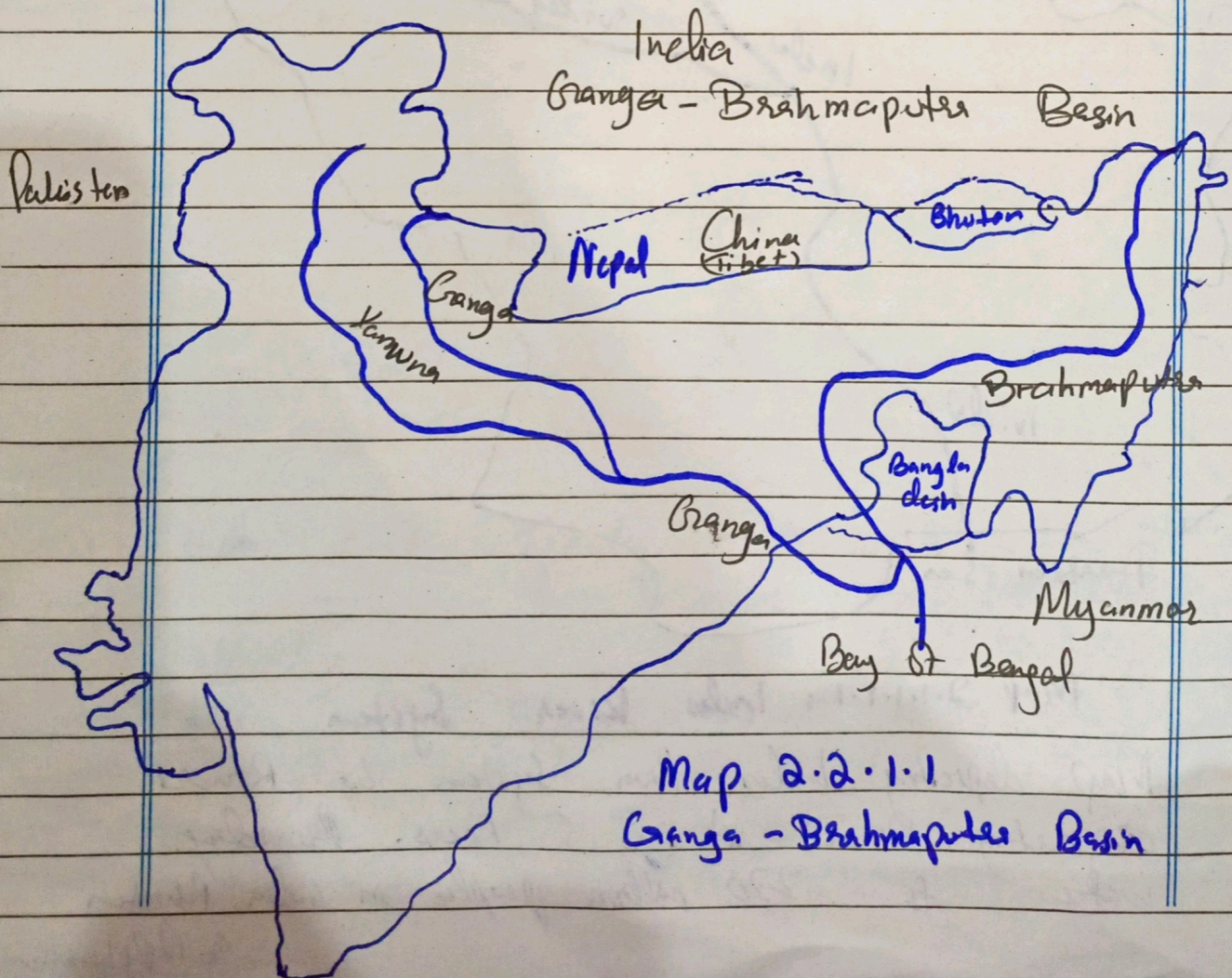
Map 2.1.1.1.1 : Indus River System

Map depicting Indus River System & Rivers originating from it i.e 5 Rivers. Providing water to 220 million people in India, Pakistan & Afghanistan

## 2.2.1 Brahmaputra & Ganges Rivers

Originating in China, these rivers flow through India, & Bangladesh, supporting hydro-power & ecosystem.

- China's upstream dams & water diversion project raise concerns about downstream water availability, particularly for Bangladesh.
- Lack of comprehensive water-sharing agreements increases tensions & uncertainty.
- Dispute over water rights & pollution could create political & economic friction.



Map 2.2.1.1  
Ganga - Brahmaputra Basin

### 3. Competition & Challenges in Water Resource Management

#### 3.1 Population Growth:

- o South Asia population is projected to reach 2.5 billion by 2050, exceeding water resources. (Source: UN Water, 2023)
- o India with 1.4 billion people, faces the world's worst water crisis per capita.
- o Competition for water can lead to social unrest, particularly affecting marginalized communities.

#### 3.2 Climate Change:

- o Erratic rainfall patterns & melting glaciers in the Himalayas threaten water availability for over 1.9 billion people. (IPCC, 2022)
- o Floods in 2023 displaced over 8 million people in Pakistan alone.
- o Rising sea levels threaten coastal areas in Bangladesh with saltwater intrusion, displacing communities & contaminating freshwater sources.

#### 3.3 Lack of Trust & Cooperation

- o Historical tensions between India &

Pakistan, compounded by water disputes, create an atmosphere of mistrust

- o limited data sharing between countries hinders comprehensive water management by creates uncertainty.
- o The absence of 'Regional Water Sharing Agreements' leaves room for potential conflicts over water allocation.

#### 4. Specific Challenges for Each Country

##### 4.1. Pakistan:

4.1.1 Heavy Reliance on Indus  
Over 90% of Pakistan's agricultural water comes from the Indus River System, making it highly vulnerable to upstream developments.

4.1.2 Insufficient Irrigation  
Traditional flood irrigation systems waste up to 50% of water due to leakage by evaporation.

4.1.3 Growing Demand:  
Pakistan's population is expected to double by 2050, increasing water

demand by 70-1. (Asian Development Bank)

## 4.2 India

### 4.2.1 Internal Disparities:

Water availability varies significantly across India, with some states facing severe water scarcity like Karnataka, Bihar, Haryana & Gujarat while others have surplus i.e. Maharashtra, Odisha & Andhra Pradesh.

### 4.2.2 Rapid Urbanization:

Growing cities put additional pressure on water resources.

### 4.2.3 Water Pollution:

Industrial & agricultural runoff, along with inadequate waste-water treatment, contribute to severe water pollution.

## 4.3 China

### 4.3.1 Upstream Concerns:

While facing its own water challenges, China's large-scale dam projects on Brahmaputra raise concerns about downstream water flow for India & Bangladesh.

#### 4.3.2 Internal Water Stress:

Despite having more abundant water resources compared to South Asian neighbors, China still faces regional water scarcity in its northern & western provinces.

### 5. Potential Solutions and Frameworks: Navigating the Water Impasse

#### 5.1 Multilateral Cooperation

##### 5.1.1 Advocacy for Collaborative Frameworks.

Establish a South Asian Water Cooperation Framework similar to the Indus Water Treaty, focusing on:

- Joint data collection & monitoring of water resources across shared basins.
- Collaborative river basins management through information sharing & conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Regular meetings & data exchange to build trust & transparency.

The Mekong River Commission is a perfect example of multilateral cooperation.

##### 5.1.2 Platform for Dialogue:

Initiate regular dialogues & forums



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Forums involving all stakeholders including

- o governments
- o civil society
- o communities

## 5.2 Technical Solutions

### 5.2.2 Efficient Water Management

Promote drip irrigation, precision agriculture, & rainwater harvesting to reduce water losses & increase agricultural productivity.

- Israel, despite arid conditions, boasts high agriculture efficiency through advanced water management techniques.

### 5.2.3 Conservation & Demand Management:

Raise public awareness about water scarcity & promote responsible water use through education campaigns & incentivization schemes.

- California's water conservation measures during drought successfully reduced water consumption without impacting economic activity.

## 5.3 Legal Mechanisms

### 5.3.1 Strengthen Existing Frameworks.

Update & expand the laws water

treaty to address climate change  
↳ population growth

### 5.3.2 Develop New Agreements.

Negotiate transboundary water treaties  
for basin like the Brahmaputra  
establishing clear allocation principles  
↳ dispute resolution mechanisms  
• The Nile Basin Initiative fosters  
cooperation ↳ equitable water  
sharing among 11 countries despite  
diverse interests.

## 6. Conclusion :

In summary, resolving the competi-  
tion for water resources in South  
Asia demands immediate collaborative  
efforts. Implementing a comprehensive water  
framework, including multilateral cooperation,  
technical solutions, ↳ legal mechanisms,  
is essential to mitigate conflicts ↳  
ensure sustainable management. By prioritizing  
dialogue ↳ equitable allocation, the  
region can pave the way for  
peace ↳ stability.

### Question

The Taliban of Afghanistan are not friendly towards Pakistan. The circles which cheered for the victory of Taliban have been looking over their shoulders since since the emergence of a fresh wave of terrorism in Pakistan. Explain the dynamics of the resurgent brand of terrorism & how the state can counter it using modern technology.

### Answer

#### 1. Introduction

The recent resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan, exacerbated by the Taliban's ascendancy in neighboring Afghanistan, has reignited concerns over national security & stability. While some segments initially celebrated the Taliban's victory, the emergence of a new wave of terrorism within Pakistan has cast a shadow over these situations sentiments. The relationship between the Taliban and Afghanistan has historically been complex, marked by periods of cooperation and tension with Pakistan. However, the Taliban's resurgence has underscored the fragile nature of

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regional security dynamics, particularly concerning Pakistan's stability. In the face of evolving security challenges, Pakistan must leverage modern technology to combat terrorism effectively.

## 2. Dynamics of Resurgent Terrorism in Pakistan

### 2.1 External Influences Responsible for Terrorism Resurgence

#### 2.1.1 Taliban's Pakistan Emboldened:

The Taliban's take over in Afghanistan emboldened the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), leading them to break their ceasefire with the Pakistani government & launch renewed attacks. The TTP views the Taliban's victory as a vindication of their ideology & a sign of weakened Pakistani resolve. TTP attacks in Pakistan increased by 55% after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan.

#### 2.1.2 Potential Safe Havens:

The Taliban's control of Afghanistan provides the TTP with potential safe havens across the

border, making it harder for Pakistan to conduct operations against them. The United Nations estimates that several thousand TTP fighters are sheltering in Afghanistan. (Source: UN Security Council Report)

### 2.1.3 Shifting Alliances and Regional Rivalries

The Taliban's relationship with other militant groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS remains unclear, raising concerns about their potential support for the TTP or other Pakistani militant groups.

"There are indications that the Taliban are not fully cracking down on all militants groups operating in Afghanistan, which could pose a threat to Pakistan in future." - US Intelligence Official

### 2.1.4 India's Influence:

Accusations of Indian support for Baloch separatist groups, such as Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), create instability and potentially benefit other extremist groups like the TTP. This

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adds another layer of complexity to the regional security landscape.

### 3. Internal Factors Responsible for Terrorism Resurgence

#### 3.1 Socioeconomic Grievances and Lack of Opportunity:

##### 3.1.1 Poverty & Inequality:

High levels of poverty, particularly in rural areas & along the borders, create fertile ground for radicalization.

##### 3.1.2 Unemployment and Lack of Opportunities:

High unemployment rates, particularly among young people, coupled with limited opportunities for upward mobility, contributes to a sense of hopelessness, making individuals vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups.

#### 3.2 Religious Extremism:

Groups like Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) exploit religious narratives & misinterpretation of Islam to justify

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violence by attract followers.

3.3 Weak Border Controls by Vulnerability



Map 3.3.1: Showing Porous Borders Between Pakistan by Afghanistan

"-", black line borders - depicting Afg by Paki border

Map 3-3.1 showing 2600 km long porous borders between Pakistan & Afghanistan. Torikham & Chaman are two main channels of trade between the two countries.

### 3.3.1 Porous Borders:

The long & remote borders with Afghanistan & Iran are difficult to control, facilitating the movements of militants, weapons & drugs. This provides logistical support for terrorist activities & hinders effective counterterrorism efforts.

Only 60% of the Afghanistan - Pakistan border is effectively monitored, according to the 2022 report by the Center for International Policy (CIP).

## 4. Countering Terrorism with Modern Technology

### 4.1 Enhanced Surveillance:

Utilizing advanced surveillance technologies such as drones, satellite imagery, & CCTV cameras can help monitor borders, urban areas, &



remote regions to detect & deter terrorist activities.

#### 4.2 Big Data Analysis:

Analyzing vast amounts of data from various sources including social media, financial transactions, & communications networks can help identify patterns, detect suspicious behavior, & track terrorist networks.

#### 4.3 Cybersecurity Measures:

Strengthening cybersecurity infrastructure to protect critical systems & networks from cyber-attacks by terrorist organization is essential. This includes securing government data bases, financial institutions, & critical infrastructure.

#### 4.4 Biometric Identification:

Implementing biometric identification systems at border crossings, airports, & sensitive installations can enhance security by accurately identifying individuals & detecting known terrorists or suspects.

#### 4.5 Counter-Messaging Campaigns:

Utilizing online platforms & social media to disseminate counter-narratives & debunk extremist propaganda can help prevent radicalization & undermine terrorist recruitment efforts.

#### 5. Conclusion:

The resurgence of terrorism in Pakistan following the Taliban's victory in Afghanistan is fueled by various factors. To counter it, Pakistan can harness modern technology like surveillance systems & data analytics to enhance intelligence gathering & border security, disrupting terrorist networks effectively. This proactive approach is essential for safeguarding citizens from future attacks.

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in underserved areas and mobilizing community support

### 3.2 Enhancing the Quality of Education

#### 3.2.1 Teachers Training Programs:

Comprehensive teachers training programs, particularly those working in disadvantaged areas, can improve teaching methodologies, classroom management skills, and subject knowledge, ultimately enhancing the quality of education.

Kenya's **Elimu Scholarship Programme** invests in teacher training and professional development to enhance instructional quality.

#### 3.2.2 Curriculum Reforms:

Curriculum reform initiatives should focus on aligning educational content with local contexts, cultural diversity, and evolving socio-economic needs.

South Africa's **Curriculum & Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS)** modernize educational content to align with 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills.

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### 3-3 Addressing Socioeconomic Factors

#### 3.3.1 Healthcare and Nutrition Interventions:

Access to healthcare services & sanitation facilities along with nutrition interventions directly impacts students health & well-being, which in turn affects their ability to attend school regularly.

Mexico's Prospera Program, provide essential services to low-income families, including healthcare, nutrition supplements, & educational support.

#### 3.3.2 Social Welfare Programs:

Holistic social welfare programs targeting marginalized communities can provide financial assistance, nutritional support, & other forms of assistance to alleviate socio-economic barriers to education.

Social Welfare Programs, like India's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), offer wage employment to rural households, and reducing vulnerability to poverty.

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, tackling poverty and

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Education requires a comprehensive strategy. By improving access to quality education, addressing socioeconomic challenges, and empowering communities, Pakistan can break the cycle of poverty and create opportunities for lasting change.

Drawing inspiration from successful global initiatives, Pakistan can take targeted steps towards a brighter future.

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## Pakistan Affairs

### Question

Pakistan is a nation for the elites sponsored by the poor class. Give an economic explanation of this statement

### Answer

#### Introduction

Pakistan, a nation brimming with diversity and potential, is often marred by the glaring disparity between its elite class and the ~~impro~~ impoverished majority. The economic landscape of Pakistan paints a stark picture, where a privileged few wield significant power and wealth, while the vast majority struggles to access basic necessities. This phenomenon has led to the perception that Pakistan operates as a nation for the elites, with the labor and resources of the poor class being utilized to sustain their lavish lifestyles. As former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stated,

"Pakistan is a land of extremes. It has one of the most forbidding terrains in the world, yet it sustains a rich

variety of cultures, languages, and human diversity. It is also a land of contrasts; many of its citizens live in great wealth, others in unimaginable poverty."

## 2. Economic Disparities: Widening Gulf between Wealth and Poverty

### 2.1 The Glaring Wealth Gap:

Imagine a society where the richest 1% own 20 times more wealth than the bottom 60% combined. (Oxfam, 2020). This is the reality of in Pakistan, where a handful of individuals enjoy mansions and empires while millions struggle to afford basic necessities. The Gini Coefficient, measuring income inequality, stands at 0.34 (World Bank), significantly higher than regional averages, painting a stark picture of uneven distribution.

### 2.2 Unequal Access to Resources:

Beyond income, opportunity itself is scarce. Only 52% of children complete primary education (UNESCO, 2022), leaving them ill-equipped for the job market. Healthcare expenditure per capita is amongst the lowest in South Asia. (World Bank)

limiting access to quality care for the underprivileged. Imagine rural communities lacking clean water and sanitation, while the wealthy reside in gated communities with exclusive amenities.

### 2.3 Exploitative Labor Practices

Many resort to precarious work for survival. Informal sector workers face low wages, long hours, and unsafe conditions (ILO, 2023). The minimum wage barely covers basic needs, pushing families into child labor (Human Rights Watch, 2023). Imagine garment factories employing children for meager wages, exposing them to dangers and robbing them of a brighter future.

### 2.4 Impact on the Broader Population

These disparities breed widespread discontent. Unequal access to resources, opportunities, and basic necessities fuels social unrest and instability (World Bank) impacting human development (UNDP, 2022). These have glaring impacts on low class community. Pakistan ranks 104<sup>th</sup> on the Human Development Index (UNDP)



### 3. Factors Contributing to Elitism: A Multifaceted Issue

#### 3.1 Deep-Rooted Legacies

##### 3.1.1 Feudal System:

Vestiges of feudalism linger, granting landowning elites immense power and resources passed down through generations. This created a rigid hierarchy, leaving rural communities trapped in cycles of poverty by limiting upward mobility.

Over 40% of Pakistan's land is owned by less than 1% of landowners (Oxfam, 2022), reflecting the enduring influence of feudal structures.

##### 3.1.2 Colonial Misrule:

British colonial policies exacerbated existing inequalities by favouring certain groups and promoting English education, creating an elite with better opportunities by marginalizing the majority.

#### 3.2 Entrenched Political Dynamics

##### 3.2.1 Elite Capture:

Powerful families and business

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groups dominate major political parties, influencing policies to benefit their interests.

### 3.2.2 Weak Institutions:

Ineffective law enforcement & a fragile judicial system allow the elite to operate with impunity, evading taxes and exploiting loopholes, widening the gap between rich & poor.

### 3.3 Socio Economic Obstacles

#### 3.3.1 Limited Access to Education

Unequal access to quality education creates a significant barrier to upward mobility for low income families, perpetuating generational inequalities.

#### 3.3.2 Informal Sector Dominance

A large portion of the workplace, particularly in rural areas, is trapped in the informal sector, characterized by low wages, poor working conditions, & limited social security benefits.

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### 3.4 Unequal Taxation

Pakistan's tax-to-GDP ratio remains below the regional average, suggesting inefficient tax collection & potential loopholes exploited by the wealthy, further burdening the formal economy & contributing to the feeling of the poor indirectly supporting the elite.

## 4. Way Forward: Drawing Lessons from Global Best Practices in Addressing Economic Disparities

### 4.1. Progressive Taxation Policies

Introduce progressive taxation measures to ensure the wealthy contribute their fair share. Emulate countries like Norway and Sweden. Norway's wealth tax and high-income tax rates contribute to funding robust social welfare programs, ensuring distribution of resources.

### 4.2. Social Investment Policies

Implement social investment policies that prioritize education, healthcare, and social protection programs. Allocate resources towards universal healthcare and education.

ensuring equitable access to essential services regardless of socioeconomic status. Countries like Norway and Denmark have achieved remarkable success in reducing inequality through social welfare system.

#### 43 Investment in Infrastructure by Rural Development.

Focus on infrastructure development by rural upliftment to bridge the urban-rural divide. Prioritize projects that improve access to markets, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions in rural areas, stimulating economic growth.

Examples from China & India highlights the transformative impact of investments in rural infrastructure, agriculture & connectivity.

#### 44 Enhanced Social Safety Nets:

Strengthen social safety nets to provide a cushion for vulnerable populations during economic crisis.

Models such as Brazil's Bolsa

Familia and South Africa's Social Grants System offer valuable lessons in poverty alleviation & income support.

## 5. Conclusion

In conclusion, Pakistan must implement comprehensive strategies, including social investment, progressive taxation, rural development, entrepreneurship support, and community empowerment, to address economic disparities. Collaboration between government, civil society, and international partners is essential for fostering inclusive growth and overcoming the challenges of economic elitism.